

## Consluntinc aiul the Donatists 183

But the n»>natist';, who^: only *rtiiwti*  
*\*/V/;r* was  
 their passionate insistence upon the  
 obligation of the Christian to make no  
 compromise with conscience, however  
 sharp the e.dtje of the persecutor's  
 sword, were obviously not the kind of  
 people to be overawed by so mild a  
 punishment as confiscation of property.  
 The Kwperor's edicts were fruitless,  
 and in 3.\*t>, only four years later, we find  
 Constantino trying a change of policy  
 and recommending the African bishop\*  
 to see once more what toleration would  
 do. Active repression only made martyrs,  
 and martyrdom was tlu? j»ual of the  
 fanatical Donatist's ambition. Hence the  
 terms in which the Emperor addresses  
 the (\*ath<\*lic tlutivh of Africa. After  
 enumeratinj.; the repeated efforts ho has  
 made in order to restore unity, and  
 dwelling upon the deliberate and  
 abandoned \\icUedness of those who have  
 rendered his intervention nugatory, he  
 continues;

\*\* Wi\* uur\*l hope, ilierriore, ih/il Ahtii^hty  
 iiutl may shew |»ity .md ^ehllejuv.'. in *ln>*  
*ju'opU\**, as this .srliiHin is the work ot a li-w,  
 I'ur it is hi C\*ml that we shothl Itwtk tor a  
 ivuH'itY<sub>t</sub> sin« e all ^nutl vowsautt lUnnlr; are  
 requited. Hut uuti! the healing roiurs from  
 above, it brhoves us to iitiHleratr tnir ctatneils,  
 in pra4'ttM\* patieiife, and to hc;tr with iht\*  
 virtue t\*f r.iltnnrvi any assault t»r attack  
 which the depravity of these people proiMpts  
 them to deliver.

'\* Let. there be un paying **baek** injury with  
 injury : for il in only the foot win\* **takes** into  
 his usurping hamls the vc\*!i\*f^aiii r wtiirli hr»  
 tiii\*lii in **rrsrrvt\*** for C\*utL\* Our